

It was raining on Tnuia. But then, it was always raining on Tnuia. The planet's atmosphere had been heavily a long time ago, by what no one knew. The end result, however, was quite obvious - it was always raining on Tnuia. Jacen slumped his shoulders and pulled his raincoat tighter over his neck as he walked along the sidewalk with everyone else. He tried to keep himself dry as possible, but since his umbrella had been pulled inside out two blocks back it was a little difficult. While everything else he was wearing was waterproof - the high black boots, the long black coat and the black gloves on his hands - his hair was decidedly not, and unfortunately neither was his face. His hair clung to his scalp and sent even more drops running off his nose and onto the pavement. All of the cities on Tnuia were

face. Same brandy brown eyes and long brown hair as always. Same old Jaina, just a few years older and with fewer grease stains on her checks nowadays. She was the pilot now, even if she did tinker with her ship when she got the chance. But her ship, *Jaina's Falcon*, was one of the best in the galaxy and needed few repairs and even fewer additions. It was the same make of her father's ship, but some years advanced in model. She loved it; Han and Leia had presented it to her for her 18th birthday. Jacen had been given tuition to the Science University of Tnuia, where he was currently in his second year. She went to the kitchen and got herself a warm drink, sitting down and musing over the years since their graduation. Three years to be exact, almost to the day. She hadn't really seen Jacen since he'd started the University, although they kept in close contact. Zekk, of course, she saw all the time. Like her, he was working for the New Republic, still piloting the *Lightning Rod*. They had been living together since she'd turned 18, but in the year and a half since, there had yet been no talk of getting married. Tenel Ka had chosen to go to Hapes after graduation; despite her dislike for her grandmother's controlling ways, she knew that one day the ruling of the Hapes Cluster would be on her shoulders, and she intended to be the best. Which meant she had to start learning how, and so she was. Jaina imagined that Tenel Ka was keeping in contact with Jacen more than herself, but they still talked and wrote every month or so. The serious young warrior woman was adapting to her new role as a democrat rather well, if a bit uncomfortably. She still sported that lizard skin armor whenever she could, Jaina thought with a smile. Lowie went home for a long time; he had missed his family more than he had often let on. Jaina remembered how happy he was to see his uncle, Chewbacca, whenever he and her father had come to Yavin IV. He and his sister Sirra worked together now, scouting out distant planets for the Chief-of-State, hoping to aid in bringing them into the New Republic. Jaina knew, too, that both Wookies also hoped to find signs of their long lost friend, Raaba, whether she was dead or alive. No one knew the truth of her fate, or that of Nolaa Tarkona, though Jaina sincerely hoped that the latter was out of their way for good. Raynar and Lusa had graduated to the status of Jedi Knights, and for the time they were still at the Academy, helping to train other Jedi. Another noise! Jaina opened her eyes again, unaware that she had even closed them again. Drifting in her state of half-sleep, she had heard it again. This time it was different...not a noise at all, really. More like some kind of echo she heard through the Force. She tried tuning in more to that sense of herself, letting her eyes slide half-shut.... "Jaina?" "Ahhh!" she jumped and whirled, ready for anything - but it was only Zekk. "Zekk! You scared me half to death! What're you doing up?" "I could ask you the same thing," he said, walking around the couch and sitting down next to her. "What are you doing awake at this hour?" She sighed. "I keep thinking I'm hearing this noise in the apartment, but there's nothing here. Just now I realized that it's more like an echo through the Force. Ave you heard anything?" "Not a thing," he shook his head. He started massaging her shoulders. "Mmm...thanks." There was a silence as he kneaded the stress out of her muscles. She leaned back on him and he put his arms around her. Thoughts wandered through her head as they tended to in the early morning. "Zekk, how do you like that wall?" she asked, staring at the blank one in front of her. He looked up. "I think it looks like a wall. And you?" "Very funny. It's kind of empty. Maybe we should get something to put up there." "Sounds like a good idea, but what?" "Oh, I don't know. Maybe we could look for something in our spare time." Zekk laughed. "Jaina, this is our spare time! You forget what our work schedules are like, love?" She sighed

biggest wave either young man could have imagined was headed straight for the city.

To Be Continued.....

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